

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 11, 2005. Claims 1 to 10, 17, 18, 21 to 30, 37, 38, 41 to 50, 52 54 and 56 are pending, of which Claims 1, 17, 21, 37, 41, 52, 54 and 56 are independent.

Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,631,407 (Mukaiyama). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 1 as amended now recites an information management apparatus for transmitting data indicating information on a device to an external apparatus. The information management apparatus includes a storage unit, an acquisition unit and a transmission control unit. The storage unit stores data that indicates information on the device and that is not dependent on a machine kind of the device. The stored data is not acquired from the device. The acquisition unit acquires the data from the storage unit when the data to be transmitted to the external apparatus is not dependent upon the machine kind of the device, and acquires data indicating information on the device from a storage unit in the device when the data to be transmitted to the external apparatus is dependent upon the machine kind of the device. The transmission control unit controls so that the data acquired by the acquisition unit may be transmitted to the external apparatus.

In this way, an apparatus in accordance with the present invention handles two types of data indicating information on a device: one is dependent on a machine kind of the device and the other is not. The data that is not dependent on the device kind is stored in the storage unit of the information management apparatus and the data that is

dependent on the device kind is stored in the storage unit of the device, and the former is not acquired from the device.

In contrast, Mukaiyama discloses a device management network system that includes a management server 20, client devices 30 and network devices (printers) 10. The management server 20 sends status information provided by the printer 10 to the client device 30. The management server 20 also sends printer device description (such as model names, MAC addresses, IP addresses of the printer) to the client device 30.

However, Mukaiyama, does not disclose a storage unit used to store data indicating information on a device as in the present invention. Specifically, the present invention includes the feature that the stored data (a) is not dependent on the device kind and (b) is not acquired from the device. In contrast, Mukaiyama discloses that the status information, which the management server 20 receives, is provided by the printer 10, and therefore the status information is acquired from the device. Furthermore, the device description, which the management server 20 receives, is dependent on the printer 10 and is naturally provided by the printer, and therefore is both dependent on the device kind and acquired from the device.

In light of the deficiencies of Mukaiyama as discussed above, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claims 21, 41 and 54 are directed to a method, computer readable medium and a computer-executable program, respectively, substantially in accordance with the apparatus of Claim 1. As such, Applicant submits that Claims 21, 41 and 54 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Claim 17 as amended now recites an information management apparatus for transmitting document data for displaying information on a device to an external apparatus, comprising an acquisition unit and a control unit. The acquisition unit acquires an equipment construction of the device from the device. The control unit controlling so that a notation for acquiring, from the information management means, data indicating the acquired equipment construction and displaying the acquired equipment construction at the external apparatus may be included in the document data if the acquired equipment construction meets a condition corresponding to the notation and said the document data with the notation may be transmitted to the external apparatus. The notation is described in a predetermined language, and if the equipment construction does not meet that condition, the notation is not included in the document data and the document data without the notation is transmitted to the external apparatus.

An example of the present invention is illustrated in Fig. 10 and described in the specification from page 29, line 4 to page 30, line 16. As disclosed, the condition corresponding to the notation is "low-cassette-exist = true" (Fig. 20). If the device has a bottom cassette, a notation for displaying paper feed information for the bottom cassette is included in the document data and sent to the host computer. A browser may then display the paper feed information for the bottom cassette. If the bottom cassette is not available in the device, such notation is not included in the document data. In addition, the browser displays no paper feed information for the bottom cassette.

In contrast, Mukaiyama is entirely silent as to the notation as recited in Claim 17. Specifically, Mukaiyama fails to disclose a notation for acquiring, from the information management means, data indicating the acquired equipment construction and

displaying the acquired equipment construction at the external apparatus may be included in the document data if the acquired equipment construction meets a condition corresponding to the notation and said the document data with the notation may be transmitted to the external apparatus. The notation is described in a predetermined language, and if the equipment construction does not meet that condition, the notation is not included in the document data and the document data without the notation is transmitted to the external apparatus.

In light of the deficiencies of Mukaiyama as discussed above, Applicant submits that Claim 17 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

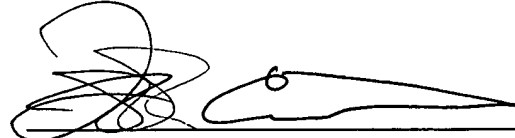
Amended independent Claims 37, 52 and 56 are directed to a method, computer readable medium and a computer-executable program, respectively, substantially in accordance with the apparatus of Claim 17. As such, Applicant submits that Claims 37, 52 and 56 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the allowability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank L. Cire', written over a horizontal line.

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